

# **SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY DISTRIBUTED VOIP CONFERENCE SERVICE WITH ENHANCED QOS**

## **ABSTRACT**

The present invention is directed to a system, including apparatus and  
5 architecture, and method for providing scheduled and ad hoc voice over IP conference  
services having enhanced quality and reliability. The system uses an overlay network of  
geographically distributed conference servers working simultaneously and  
collaboratively to host a given conference session. Multiple conference servers  
simultaneously and collaboratively perform the necessary audio mixing. The voice  
10 routing path is established and controlled within the overlay network and supports  
conference services across different conference service providers.